



William L. Towler
Director

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COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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February 7, 2006

Jeff Hatch-Miller, Chair
Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

E-01345A-05-0675

Re: APS Renewables RFP—February 14 Commission meeting

Dear Jeff:

As you know I testified at the Commission hearing a few months ago in support of increasing the Environmental Portfolio Standard percentage. In Coconino County a 60 megawatt wind energy project was approved by the Board of Supervisors, and incidentally the lawsuit filed by the adjoining property owner has been dismissed, and we are anxious to see that project succeed. Unfortunately, the developers of the project and APS have not come to agreement on a power purchase agreement. My understanding is that APS is looking more favorably on purchases of alternative energy from projects in other states.

The success of wind energy projects is very important to rural Arizona. It is important for rural economic development and in our case can also serve as a catalyst in sustaining traditional agricultural uses, keeping large ranches intact, and therefore protecting open space. The large property owners in the area proposed for the wind energy project east of Flagstaff on I-40 have been working with Coconino County over the past two years to develop strategies to improve the economic viability of the ranches in order to keep them intact and to prevent any future sale for 40-acre ranchettes. Wind energy development is a big piece of this puzzle and could provide the most immediate economic boost.

In addition, one of our elected Board members, Supervisor Carl Taylor, is pushing the idea of the Flagstaff area and Coconino County becoming a center for economic development related to industries involved in sustainability such as wind, solar, alternative building techniques, products used for energy conservation, etc. We are already ahead of the game with Southwest Windpower located here.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will ask APS to take a hard look at in-state alternative energy producers, and in particular the proposed Sunshine project that may be one of the most ready-to-go wind projects in the state.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Towler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Towler
Community Development Director